

# The Mesa School System

**How the Grade Schools have Developed Culminating in the Recent Completion of the Handsome Central School Structure**

On February 27, 1914, the grade board of District No. 4 decided that something must be done to relieve the crowded conditions of the school system. A mass meeting was called at the City Hall March 5th. Soon after an election was called to vote bonds. On April 27th, 1914, ground was broken for a \$75,000 building. The Board of Trustees was then composed of O. S. Stapley, Jas. W. Lesueur and H. L. Chandler. In concluding to enlarge the facilities of the school district they determined to build for the future and to build well. Too much credit cannot be given to these able business men for the care, time and consideration they gave to the work of developing the future of the school system of District No. 4. Their fine business acumen and judgment was ably strengthened by the keen and efficient professional experience of Supt. H. Q. Robertson, whose work in educational interests in Maricopa county and in the state made him a valuable person to aid in perfecting the plans contemplated.

Shortly after the plans were drawn and accepted for a new building Mr. Lesueur, as a member, and Mr. Robertson, as superintendent, retired and Mr. R. S. Longmire and Supt. Geo. C. Sherwood were called to aid in the completion of the work. Mr. Longmire has shown the same deep interest and devotion to public service that was evinced by his predecessor.

## The Main Entrance



Today as a result of the enterprise of Mesa's citizens and the diligent efforts of the Board of Trustees, Mesa has a grammar school building that would do credit to a city of 50,000 inhabitants.

Recognizing the importance of the step, the board gave a great deal of careful consideration to the selection of an architect. That their choice of Lescher and Kibbey of Phoenix was a most fortunate one, is well evidenced by the splendid building

ready for school to open on schedule time. Great credit is due for the efforts the contractors made in the face of all these difficulties to have the building ready. The building was completed in the least time of any similar building ever erected in the Salt River Valley, considering handicaps.

The contract for the plumbing was let to R. N. Stapley & Bro. All plumbing is of the latest approved

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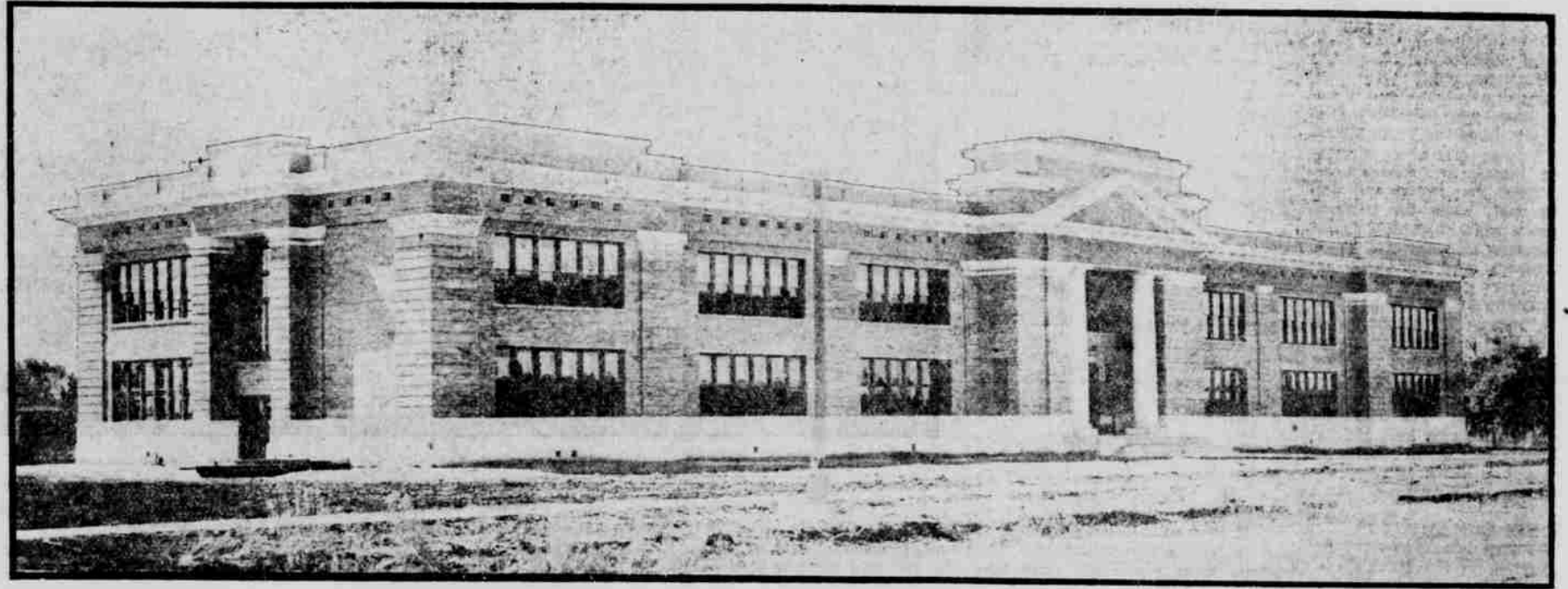
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Arizona

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Frank Piester

## The New Mesa Central School



Royal W. Lescher and John Rinker Kibbey, Architects.

Steele and Jennings, Contractors.

Art by Phoenix Engraving Co.

style and pattern and was carefully installed.

The heating system was installed by the Machinery and Electrical Co. of Phoenix under the direction of E. A. Trincano.

There were numerous other sub-contracts that were undertaken by local firms. The great portion of the lumber used in the building was procured from the Valley Lumber Company. The brick was furnished by Duvey & Hauser of Phoenix. The hardware, paint and other such material by O. S. Stapley Company and the lighting fixtures by the South Side Gas and Electric Company. It will not be possible to name personally all the people who contributed important labor and materials in bringing this splendid building to its perfect completion. Suffice it to say that the entire community speaks their praise and approval.

### ITS PHYSICAL ASPECTS

This beautiful new building is 270 feet in length and 76 feet in width. It is built of brick on a heavy cement foundation which goes nine feet in the ground, is four feet wide to ground level and twenty inches in width at the foot of the wall. The building is faced throughout with No. 1 Tucson pressed brick, while sustaining walls are of native brick from the Shill yards. The basement contains store and fuel rooms as well as fumigating and air system appliances. The air intake extends from basement to roof, and all air, both hot and cold, passes through the charcoal washer and is thoroughly cleansed before going to the class rooms. The general heating used will be hot air. A fumigating room in which all books and supplies used by pupils are fumigated is one of the interesting features of the building. Twenty large and convenient class rooms with cloak room facilities are in the building proper. On the first floor is situated a large trophy room and adjacent to it the library. The trophy room will receive additions of specimens each year, and will represent the progress of students in the various arts and sciences as well as specimens from nature. The principal's office and reception room is conveniently situated in the front part of the building on the first floor. Adjoining the main entrance is a wide corridor extending the full width of the building, and this will connect with the auditorium to be built at a future date. The building has been planned for the addition of the auditorium, and with very little expense. A fourteen foot corridor extends the full length of the building on both floors, giving plenty of room for the entrance and departure of students four abreast. The domestic science room has been located in the southeast part of the building and is large and commodious, being fitted with gas heater and coal stove ranges. The gas plates and individual tables of the best type were installed by contractors. Next to the kitchen is a

## How The Schools Grew In a Score Of Years

The growth of Mesa's school system has been phenomenal. Twenty-two years ago when the old brick building was remodeled at the corner of Second avenue and Center street, it was considered an extravagance. It was soon over-crowded, and in 1899, the present North building was erected. At present this old grade building is being used by the commercial department of the high school.



GEORGE C. SHERWOOD  
Superintendent of the Mesa Schools

### THE SOUTH BUILDING

This building is situated in the south part of town, has six rooms and is nicely located on two and one-half acres of ground. It is planned after the mission style of architecture, and in every way has proved to be comfortable and commodious. Like the North building it has been devoted to the primary and lower grade work. O. P. Greer, the principal, has for several years rendered very efficient service to the school system of Mesa. His assistants are:

Miss Clara Phelps, First Grade.  
Miss Laura Butler, First Grade.  
Miss Maxine McChesney, Second Grade.  
Miss Inez Earl, Second Grade.  
Miss Leland Brack, Third Grade.  
O. P. Greer, Fourth Grade.

But for the fast developing community and city the old grade building soon became inadequate to care properly for the school children. The Union High School had been built, and moved into shortly before the South building was erected. Still the people came in and the children multiplied. The opera house was requisitioned last year and a two room cottage erected on the old Central grounds.

### THE NORTH BUILDING

This building at the time it was erected was considered the last word in school construction. It is a two story building, four rooms on each floor. It is now being used for primary work and other grades up to and including the fourth grades. Miss Mina Alexander, the principal, has been in the Mesa school system for several years. She is ably assisted in her work there this year by Mrs. Florence Ogden, first grade and primary supervisor.

Miss Viola Passey, First Grade.  
Miss Ethel Sirrine, First Grade.  
Miss Lily Burton, Second Grade.  
Miss Onal Core, Second Grade.  
Miss Maude Tong, Third Grade.  
Miss Hazel Pomeroy, Third Grade.  
Miss Mina Alexander, Fourth Grade.

With the completion of the Roosevelt dam came also a greater growth in Mesa's school population and in 1910 the South building of six rooms was erected.

Superintendent George C. Sherwood the new superintendent of the Mesa school system, who has been here since the middle of June, is highly pleased with his new field of work, and has high hopes for an excellent year of school work.

Mr. Sherwood is a native of Kentucky, and was educated in Ohio and New England, being graduated from Yale. The university has conferred

the degree of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts on him.

In his native state he held several positions in large cities as principal and grade supervisor, the last one being at Covington, Kentucky, where he had charge of over one thousand children in one of the large ward buildings.

He comes to Mesa from Canon City, Colorado, where he held the position of superintendent of the Canon City high school for five years, with a record of achievement that speaks eloquently for his pedagogic attainments.

Referring to the policy of the Mesa schools, Mr. Sherwood says:

"The policy of the schools in the future will be increased efficiency along lines of work. The idea is fast gaining ground in educational life, that there is really 'no royal road to learning,' that kindergarten methods are well enough in their place but that the play element and interest through amusement should not be carried too far. While wholesome play is recognized as a requisite in all school work, at the same time the dignity and worth of wholesome work should be constantly emphasized in all school systems. Accuracy and precision cannot be obtained without long and patient drilling. These qualities should be more and more demanded of all

(Continued on Page Four)

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